

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

ITEM 11, FILE 041387

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

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File #041387 is a resolution relative to acceptance and funding of a Books2 Go-Family Literacy Grant by the Milwaukee Public Library.

Background and Discussion

1. This resolution authorizes the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) to accept a Books2Go-Family Literacy Grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The purpose of the project is to expand outreach library services to preschoolers in cooperation with their childcare providers and family. *This is the yearly continuation of the Books2Go grant of 2000.*
2. The grant supports the city-wide strategic goals to foster and focus on the educational needs of children, to strengthen the literacy rate and expand services to youth and single parent households. It also supports MPL's objectives to provide materials and services for Milwaukee citizens, expand and diversify the collection for a target audience and promote library services, resources to the community by usage and support.
3. The program includes contacts and visits to daycare centers, delivering "Books To Go" backpacks, facilitating library card distribution and scheduling story time at a library. In 2005, the program will be expanded through more contact with the childcare providers and parents, and training to the providers in preparing the children for school. The enhanced program, developed by the Public Library Association (PLA) and the Association of Library Services for Children (ALSC), has a strong emphasis on 6 skills necessary in developing pre-literacy skills in young children. The 6 skills include narrative skills, letter knowledge, print awareness, vocabulary, print motivation, and phonological awareness.
4. Studies show how critical it is for children age five and under to be exposed to reading for developing literacy skills. This grant will be measured by the number of: participating childcare centers, cards issued to centers, books checked out, training sessions offered, attendance, surveys and follow-up visits to the library.
5. MPL will partner with Wisconsin Early Childcare Association (WECA), MATC and 4C's in offering credits toward certification for the providers or teacher continuing education credits. The library will also work with those groups, hospitals, head start agencies and childcare centers to provide training to the parents.

Fiscal Impact

1. The total for the Books2Go: Family Literacy grant is \$57,135, funded by the grantor share, \$42,000 (74%), and the City in-kind share, \$15,135 (26%).
2. The grant provides partial funding for 11 library positions and for supplies, materials, an outreach educator, marketing and equipment.
3. The grant period is from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

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LRB – Fiscal Review Section
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